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ON PAGE **A-5**

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U.S. Magistrate Denies Bail For Ghana Man in Spy Case

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ALEXANDRIA, Va. July 19 — A Federal magistrate today denied bail to a Ghanaian national accused of conspiring to commit espionage, despite an offer by the Ghanaian Ambassador to the United States to guarantee the accused man's presence at a trial.

Instead, the magistrate, W. Harrison Grimsley, ruled that the defendant, Michael Agbotui Soussoudis, 39 years old, should be held without bail on charges that he obtained information from a Central Intelligence Agency employee about Ghanians who had worked with the agency.

The ruling that Mr. Soussoudis, a relative of the leader of Ghana, would be held without bail came one day after the magistrate released in the custody of her parents Sharon M. Scranage, the C.I.A. employee also charged with espionage.

The unsuccessful offer to guarantee the presence of Mr. Soussoudis at his trial was made as the Ghanaian ambassador, Eric Otoo, and four of his colleagues sat in the small court room.

Mr. Soussoudis and Miss Scranage, 29, were arrested separately here last week. The authorities said the two developed a close personal relationship in 1983 when she was serving in the Accra, the capital of Ghana.

According to an affidavit prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miss Scranage said she had provided Mr. Soussoudis with information about the identity of the C.I.A. station chief in Ghana, the Ghanaians who had

provided the agency with information about their country and Ghanaian dissidents working for the agency.

She also said she had turned over classified cable traffic, intelligence agency operational plans for Ghana and information about the agency's radio equipment.

In today's hearing, Mr. Soussoudis's lawyer, Thomas Dyson, argued that it was "bizarre at best" that his client should be charged with espionage.

"He was trying to protect his own country, not endanger the United States," the lawyer said.

Mr. Soussoudis lived in the United States from 1970 to 1982, a short part of the time as an employee of a Ghanaian trade mission. He is either a cousin or nephew of the man who governs Ghana, Flight Lieut. Jerry John Rawlings.

Mr. Dyson, a partner in the Washington law firm of Hundley & Chacheris, also contended that the Government allegations did not indicate that his client had committed any illegal acts while in the United States.

"There is no probable cause to believe that Mr. Soussoudis has violated the laws of the United States," Mr. Dyson said.

But the Assistant United States Attorney, Justin Williams, rejected this argument and contended that the defendant's efforts to obtain information collected by the C.I.A. in Ghana "clearly was injurious to the national security of the United States."